United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1189
23 July 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for South Africa holds talks in Pretoria with political leaders.

+ United Nations military observers arrive in Somalia for deployment along demarcation line dividing Mogadishu.

+ British Foreign Secretary, after meeting with Secretary-General, says key to peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina is supervision of heavy weapons; acknowledges further planning and cooperation are needed.

+ Draft resolution in Social Committee of Economic and Social Council would ask Secretary-General to convene World Summit on social development in 1995.

* * *

On the second day of his mission to South Africa, Cyrus Vance, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to that country, met today with Chief Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Party, as well as with the Head of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), Clarence Makwetu. Later in the day, Mr. Vance held a first round of talks with representatives of the African National Congress (ANC).

Upon his arrival yesterday in the capital city of Pretoria, the Special Representative and his party met with President de Klerk and with senior Cabinet Ministers and high officials of the South African Government, including Foreign Minister Botha, Minister for State Affairs Dr. Viljoen, Minister for Constitutional Development Meyer, Minister for Law and Order Kriel, and Minister of Justice Coetsee.

Following that meeting, Mr. Vance held separate talks with the Ministers dealing with law and order, with constitutional questions, with social welfare issues, and with the Minister of Finance Keys.

Mr. Vance was appointed Special Representative for South Africa on 17 July, following the adoption last week by the Security Council of a resolution

(more)

inviting the Secretary-General to appoint, as a matter of urgency, a Special Representative to recommend measures which would assist in bringing an effective end to the violence in South Africa, and in creating conditions for negotiations leading towards a peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

In a press conference following the two-day meeting of the Council, South Africa's Foreign Minister Roelof (Pik) Botha had indicated that his Government would welcome the Special Representative's visit.

* * *

United Nations military observers assigned to monitor the ceasefire in the capital of Somalia, Mogadishu, were due to arrive in the city today, in compliance with Security Council resolution 751 (1992). They were accompanied from Nairobi by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ambassador Mohammed Sahnoun.

The Spokesman of the Secretary-General told correspondents today that the deployment of the observers along the demarcation line separating Mogadishu into two zones was due to begin in the next few days.

The Secretary-General, on 29 June, had informed the Security Council that the main factions in the Somali conflict had agreed to the deployment of a unit of 50 United Nations observers to monitor the ceasefire in that country.

* * *

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, after meeting with the Secretary-General at Headquarters last night, told reporters that the key to a successful peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the identifying and monitoring of heavy weapons after a ceasefire had been established. "That is why it figured so prominently in the negotiations and the request by the three Bosnian signatories to the Security Council", he said.

His comments, and his meeting with the Secretary-General, followed the issuing yesterday morning of a report by Mr. Boutros-Ghali to the Security Council on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In that report the Secretary-General concluded that conditions did not exist for the acceptance by the Council of a request by the three Bosnian parties for United Nations supervision of their weapons. The request for United Nations involvement was contained in a July 17 ceasefire agreement negotiated with the parties by the European Community in London.

Mr. Hurd acknowledged that there was a need for further planning and cooperation, explaining that "the Secretary-General needs assurances of support - not just verbal support, but assurance of the necessary resources". He said that the Secretary-General's position was not that the monitoring could not be done; his concern was about the "balance of efforts required of the UN in different parts of the world".

(more)

* * *

A draft resolution introduced this morning by the representative of Chile in the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council, would ask the Secretary-General to convene a World Summit on social development in 1995. Such an event, it was stated, would eliminate the widespread perception of social issues as "soft items" on the international agenda and would provide the political impetus for a worldwide effort in favour of social development.

The draft was one of the three proposals on social issues introduced today. The other two texts dealt with the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and the 1993 report on the world social situation. The texts were introduced by the representatives of the Philippines and Pakistan, respectively.

* *** *